Shelton State Courier

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New Series Volume 8, Number 1 | Issue 111 | January 27 — February 9, 2004

Former *Courier* editor lands dream job

Kim Eaton at one stop on the way to success...her graduation from Shelton.

By **Amy P. Oswalt**
Editor

Who has the best job in journalism? A columnist for the *New York Times*? The Paris bureau chief for *Time Magazine*?

Nah!

A Shelton grad whose first professional job is as a reporter in Kona, Hawaii—now that's a position to covet.

Kim Eaton, who served as editor of the *Shelton State Courier* in the spring of 2000 and graduated from Shelton thereafter, is working at the *West Hawaii Today* daily. The paper has about 50 employees, with 11 serving on the editorial staff.

"I love this job," Eaton said in a phone interview with

See Eaton
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Fall Regalia

Photo/Brandon Lovett

***Representative Artur Davis** (C) was the commencement speaker at Shelton's first fall graduation on Dec. 15. The hard charging politician has taken Washington, Alabama's 7th congressional district and Shelton by storm since his election in 2002.*

"We were delighted to have Congressman Davis as our special guest speaker at our fall commencement ceremony. His support of education and economic development programs in the 7th district and our service area have been remarkable," said Shelton President Rick Rogers.

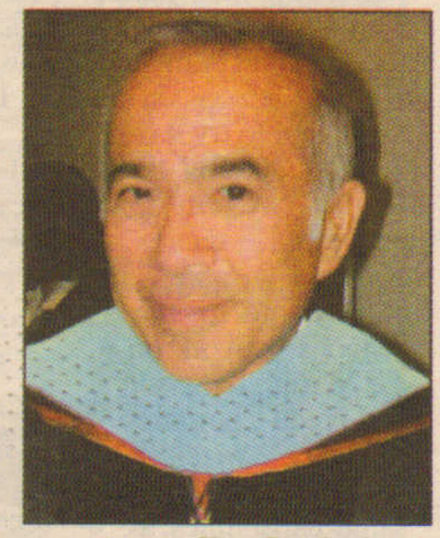
Popular dean takes interim presidency

By **Rebecca Vick**
Staff Writer

Recently Humphrey Lee, the Dean of Students at Shelton State for the past 25 years, was appointed by Alabama College Systems Chancellor Roy Johnson as interim president for Northwest Shoals Community College. The appointment became effective Jan. 5.

Lee is now the second interim president to serve since the retirement of former Northwest Shoal's president James Wade, who has been on administrative leave since August.

"I'm excited to be given the opportunity to lead Northwest Shoals in their presidential search," Lee said in an exclusive *Courier* interview. Lee is also a candidate for the presidential job at Northwest Shoals.



Photo/Brandon Lovett

Dean of Students Humphrey Lee at Shelton State's first fall graduation held in 2003.

Lee has been an employee of the postsecondary education department at Shelton since 1975. He became Dean

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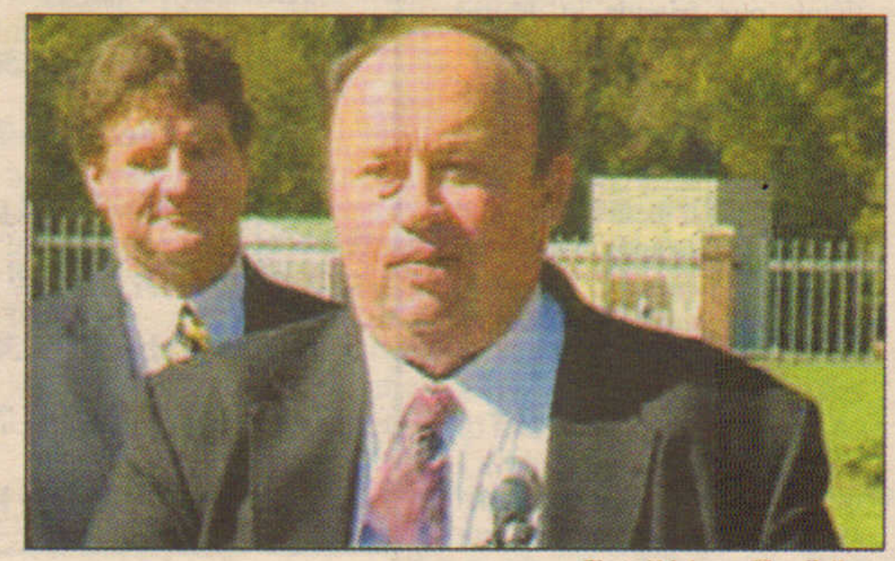
Fire college campus quietly named after Langston

By **Steven J. Mooney**
Staff Writer

"It is truly an honor to have the Alabama Fire College campus named for me," said Dr. William L. Langston, Executive Director of the Alabama Fire College.

"The Fire College has been a big part of my life for the past 25 years, and I give a great deal of credit for the success of the college to the firefighters across Alabama."

This comes after a dedication ceremony renaming the campus in Langston's honor.



Photo/Alabama Fire College

Dr. William L. Langston speaks at the recent renaming of the fire college campus in his honor.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with groundbreaking ceremonies of the Alabama Fire Fighter Memorial.

Speakers at the dedication ceremony included Chancellor of Postsecondary Education Dr. Roy Johnson, Shelton State's President Rick Rogers, Personnel Standards Commission Vice-Chairman Robert Nix, Alabama Fire College Medical Director Dr.

See Langston
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Inside The Courier

- Associate Dean Diane Layton serving as interim dean of students for Shelton
- Net gain for Shelton—campus going wireless
- Basketball Bucs still flying high over sometimes bumpy road
- And much more!

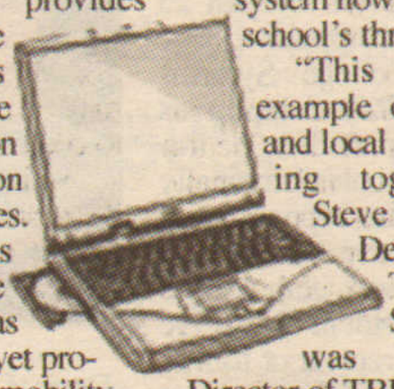
Look for the sales, discount coupons and special notices in the Courier's ads. For advertising information, call 391-2278.

Shelton goes wireless

Shelton State Community College has become the first, and only, community college in Alabama to institute an integrated wireless network system on its campuses.

Lindsey Thomas, a freshman at Shelton State just received a laptop for Christmas and said, "This is really a great thing for all of us who use laptops on campus. I can't wait to try it out!"

The state-of-the-art network system provides encrypted, secure wireless access connection to the school's network on the Martin, Langston and Fredd Campuses.



The wireless network has the same capabilities as the wired network yet provides for complete mobility.

Allowing staff to offer more efficient services to students during registration and providing instructors with greater flexibility in the classroom, the system is configured so that it can be upgraded as technology develops.

"Since every laptop at the college will be equipped with wireless capability, computer access will be available without the worry of cables and connection sites," said Jimmy Osmore, Instructional Support Specialist at the school.

Shelton State's wireless network is a result of the collaboration between the school and Phifer Wire, the world's largest producer of aluminum and fiberglass screen products.

Through Shelton State's Training for Business and Industry (TBI) center, the school was introduced to Jim Bonner, Phifer's Vice President for Information Technology who developed the system used in their Tuscaloosa production facilities. Bonner worked with Jimmy Osmore to create the system now in place on the school's three campuses.

"This is a perfect example of the college and local industry working together," said Steve Fair, Associate Dean of Technical Services who was previously Director of TBI.

The access points are provided by a Cisco 1200 Series. Coverage on the Martin Campus is provided by 24 access points, with nine on the Fredd Campus and four on the Langston Campus at the Alabama Fire College.

"This wireless technology puts Shelton State at the forefront of Alabama Community Colleges. No other community college in Alabama is able to offer this degree of service to its students and faculty. We thank our friends at Phifer Wire for their continued support of Shelton State," said President Rick Rogers.

Eaton

From Page 1

the *Courier*.

"Everyone here has been so nice to me and Angel. I've learned people in Hawaii—or at least in Kona—sort of adopt newcomers when they move in. It's really a small community, with a tremendous family feeling."

A single mother, Eaton says her six-year-old has adapted even better than she has to the island culture of Hawaii.

So far Eaton has done a variety of stories, and she is especially proud of her series on health care on the island of Hilo. "One of the first days I was here, I was sent out on an assignment and headed out across the wrong mountain. But the editor says it was his fault, so that was OK, too!"

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New club looking for check mates on campus

By **Dave Bozeman**
Chess Correspondent

Forming a club can be a lengthy, beaurocratic and costly process. Fortunately for some students, a budget is not an issue — so the process has been quick and streamlined.

I was walking by the food court one day and saw a few students playing chess. They invited me to join in, and soon I was playing regularly, especially with John Fahnestock of Brookwood. From the comments of passers-by, we figured there was enough interest to form a club.

We decided to go through channels, and that lead us to Susan Mohun, assistant dean of students. Mohun was encouraging; however it was she who told us about the difficulties in funding. I explained we could bring our own boards to play on; we would be a cost-free organization--for now.

We would like anyone who wants to learn to play or would like to improve their current play to

Shelton Chess Club founders Dave Bozeman and John Fahnestock indulge in their favorite pastime—a fast and furious game of chess. Interested students may join the club in the food court area at 10:30 a.m. on Fridays.

See Chess Page 6

Theatre Tuscaloosa Presents *To Kill a Mockingbird*

To Kill a Mockingbird is based on the classic novel by Harper Lee and was adapted for the stage by Christopher Sergel.

Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Ala. during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows the life of eight-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem and their father Atticus.

A beloved story for all ages, this tale of dignity, tolerance and the difficulties of growing up in Depression-era Alabama is a faithful adaptation of Harper Lee's classic novel which she describes as "a love story, pure and simple."

This Theatre Tuscaloosa production will be directed by Paul Looney with performances scheduled for:

Thursday, Feb. 12 - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14 - 7:30 p.m.

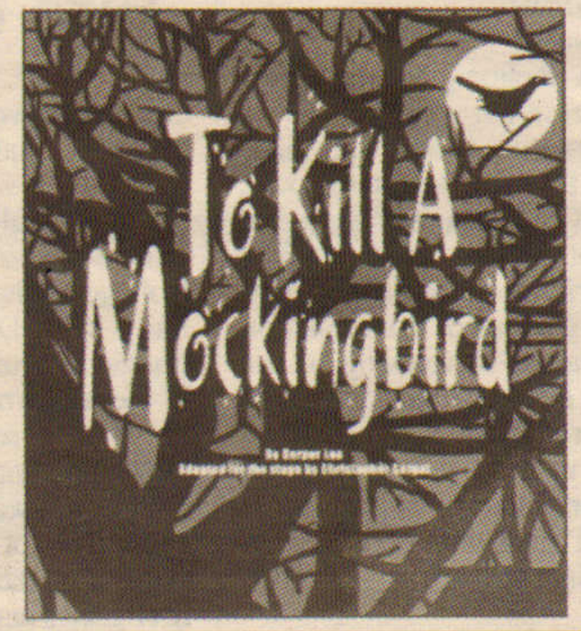
Sunday, Feb. 15 - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18 - 2 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21 - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 22 - 2 p.m.



Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsiblility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Spring Terrific Tuesday Performances

Shelton State will host a variety of programs featuring professional musicians from various colleges, student performers and ensembles that are sure to delight those of all musical tastes. All performances will begin at 1 p.m. in the Alabama Power Recital Hall on the Shelton State Martin Campus (unless otherwise noted) and are free and open to the public.

Jan 27 - University of Alabama Jazz Combo
Tom Wolfe, Director

Feb.3 - Lamb Family Violin Ensemble

Feb.10 - Musicale
Applied Instrumental Students of Shelton State

Feb. 17 - Nats Preview
Vocal Students of Mark Brown and Glinda Blackshear

Feb. 24 - Fat Tuesday Concert
Shelton State Jazz Band - Dr. Alan Blackshear, Director
Atrium*

March 2 - "Brush Up Your British Lit"
Drew Baker and Gary Wise

March 9 - Stillman Vocal Students
Voice Students of Dr. Roderick George

March 16 - University of Alabama Piano Students
Students of Amanda Penick

March 23 - Alumni Recital
Jeff Miller, Tenor

April 13 - Shelton State Jazz Band
Dr. Alan Blackshear, Director
Atrium*

April 20 - Charles Wood, Baritone
Music Faculty, University Of Montevallo

April 27 - Honors Recital
Featuring Outstanding Music Students

Photo/Brandon Lovett

Getting together for one of their joint numbers at the annual Christman Concert, the Shelton State Jazz Band and the Shelton State Singers thoroughly entertained hundreds of music lovers in the atrium.

Clock Tower Cafe has new addition

Opening on Jan. 21 in Shelton's Clock Tower Cafe, Oliver's Oven is the newest addition since the closing of Subway.

The restaurant offers specialty sandwiches similar to Subway—but not so much. These goodies are oven-baked and served hot unless the customer requests otherwise.

Oliver's Oven also prepares salads and hopes to offer personal pan pizzas, twice-baked potatoes and chicken-pot-pies in the future.

The restaurant will cater to day as well as night students — opening at 10 a.m. and closing at 7 p.m. on Monday through Thursday.

"We are all hoping it's going to be successful," said David Demonbreun, the restaurant's owner.

And he means business — Demonbreun is open for suggestions on what students and staff at Shelton believe will help make Oliver's Oven a success.

Demonbreun also explained that since his sandwiches are oven-baked, they may take four to five minutes to cook.

So if fast, fast food is what the costumers are looking for, maybe calling ahead at 391-2918 would serve them better.

Oliver's Oven located in Shelton's Clock Tower Cafe specializes in oven-baked sandwiches and quality service.

A TASTE OF MEDICINE...

Participating in a skills session at Shelton are (L-R) Rachel Stephenson, Callie Mason, Stuart Maxwell, Bradley Holt, Crystal Lee and Ryan Falgout. First-year associate degree nursing students were given a chance to demonstrate their medical skills on 10 student volunteers from the Tuscaloosa Center for Technology. Faculty Course Coordinator Jackie Williams said everyone got a lot out of the session—both ADN students and the volunteers, who had expressed an interest in learning about health care. Williams said everything really went smoothly after she assured the volunteers no needle would be involved in the simulations.

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Q&A with softball player Rebecca Tweedy

By **K.A. West**
Staff Writer

Name: Rebecca Tweedy
Number: 19
Sport: Softball
Position: Pitcher
High School: Bartlett (Tenn.)
Year: Sophomore
Major: Marketing
Favorite...
Color: blue
Movie: *A League of Their Own*
Restaurant: Olive Garden
Athlete: Lisa Fernandez
Music: country
Food: anything Italian
TV show: *7th Heaven, Friends*

What are your pet peeves?
Excuses and laziness.

Do you plan to play softball after leaving Shelton State?
Hopefully; I'm trying. Maybe at UNA [University of North Alabama].

What motivates you?
I'm a perfectionist. I want to know that I studied hard and practiced hard...that there wasn't anything more that I could have done.

What is your most embarrassing moment on the field? Off the field?
It's kind of embarrassing, but I'm really superstitious. I step over the lines, bats can't cross and when I used to play first [base], I would touch the bag twice with my glove. Off the field, on the bus, people would put post-it notes on the window, juvenile stuff like that. [Last season] Amy Busing and Candace Morris were always hanging up each others' phone numbers, because they didn't like to give them out. And at the state tournament banquet, we all ended up outside playing volleyball with an inflatable softball, which got stuck. When everyone came out, two of our players were on top of the bus, trying to get the ball. We got it in trouble.

What are your expectations this season?

See **Tweedy** Page 6

Shelton State Community College
Lady Bucs Softball
Spring 2004

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Saturday	February 7	Central Alabama	Home	1:00
Wednesday	February 18	Alabama Southern	Away	1:00
Friday	February 20	Wallace-Dothan	Away	1:00
Sunday	February 22	Gulf Coast	Away	12:00
Thursday	February 26	East Central CC (MS)	Home	1:00
Fri/Sat	Feb 27-28	Meridian Tournament	Away	TBA
Thursday	March 4	**Jefferson State	Away	1:00
Saturday	March 6	Meridian	Home	1:00
Sunday	March 7	Spoon River	Home	1:00
Tuesday	March 9	**Snead State	Away	4:00
Wednesday	March 10	Motlow (TN)	Home	1:00
Friday	March 19	Central Alabama	Away	1:00
Tuesday	March 23	**Northwest Shoals	Away	4:00
Thursday	March 25	Meridian (MS)	Away	4:00
Saturday	March 27	**Snead State	Home	1:00
Tuesday	April 6	**Bevill State	Away	1:00
Monday	April 12	Alabama Southern	Home	1:00
Tuesday	April 13	**Jeff State	Home	1:00
Friday	April 16	**Bevill State	Home	1:00
Tuesday	April 20	**Northwest Shoals	Home	1:00
Sunday	April 25	Motlow (TN)	Away	2:00
Thurs-Sat	April 29-May1	State Tournament	Alexander City	TBA

**Denotes conference Games

Melissa Daniels, Head Coach

Shelton State Softball
Roster
2003- 2004

Name	#	Position	Class	Hometown
Kelly Brady	1	OF	Freshman	Pell City
Amanda Crowe	22	2B	Sophomore	Odenville
Kristi Etheridge	8	3B	Freshman	Decatur
Alicia Fields	13	C/UT	Sophomore	Northport
Traci Green	21	OF	Sophomore	Moody
Tiffany Griffin	2	2B	Freshman	Springville
LaGina Harris	44	OF/UT	Freshman	Texas
Jennifer Hazelwood	4	1B/OF	Freshman	Pell City
Teresa Herring	25	OF	Sophomore	Mobile
Hannah Jones	00	P/UT	Freshman	Adger
Molly Minton	7	3B/SS	Freshman	Ashville
Candace Perry	15	1B/OF	Freshman	Coaling
Elizabeth Prince	6	C	Freshman	Decatur
Becky Scolland	55	P/UT	Freshman	Tennessee
Teia Smith	10	SS	Freshman	Berry
Anna Stanford	5	OF	Freshman	Springville
Rebecca Tweedy	19	P	Sophomore	Tennessee
Ashley Wade	16	1B/DH	Freshman	Pell City
Ashley Whitmire	3	3B/UT	Freshman	Danville

Head Coach: Melissa Daniels

Assistant Coach: Kayla Pond

Managers: Nikki Hoyle
Courtney McClendon

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R·O·T·C

Bucs experience a few bumps but remain undefeated in conference

By **Will Jester**
Staff Writer

Coming into the Jan. 22 match-up with Enterprise-Ozark Community College, the Shelton State men's basketball team had been enjoying a solid follow up season to their dominating 30-4 record they had last year.

Beginning the game with a 12-5 record, the Buccaneers were looking to extend their winning streak to five games and they did just that with a 71-66 victory over Enterprise.

Joseph Martin led the way for Shelton with 21 points and 17 rebounds and left no doubt in anyone's mind why Alabama A&M jumped at the chance to sign him to join their program next year.

Helping out Martin was Tavaris Swann with 17 points, Patrick Culver, who was playing in his first games since breaking his nose, contributed 8 points and 4 rebounds, and Clifton Douglass netted 7.

Also breaking into the scoring column was Leonard Scott, Ronald Parker, and Frank Moore with six points a piece.

Ladies finally beat Columbia State and go on from there

By **Julia Davis**
Staff Writer

After an impressive 83-49 victory against Enterprise-Ozark on Jan. 22, the Lady Bucs have, once again, shown that they have what it takes for a successful season.

With a record of 11-6, the women have experienced a full spectrum of emotion this season from unexpected disappointments to rewarding victories.

The team's most frustrating moments have been the two losses at home.

The Lady Bucs ended a two year undefeated streak at home with a loss to East Central (77-85) on Nov. 15. On Jan. 12, they suffered another nail-biting loss to Wallace-Hanceville (82-86).

The Lady Bucs always dread playing the Columbia State Chargers in Columbia, Tenn.

Coach Thompson described this season's Jan. 5 win as, "a pretty big deal." This game was particularly significant because the coach of Columbia State is Tab Jefferson, Shelton State's former Women's Basketball coach.

This triumph also created a little family rivalry because Thompson's sister graduated from Columbia State.

The Lady Bucs won 84-77, which is an exceptional margin considering they have never beaten the Chargers.

This is a crucial time for the sophomores since "the scouts are seriously looking," said Coach Thompson.

Of the seven sophomores on the team Thompson said, "I expect about three or four to continue playing at a four year college."

The sophomores aren't the only ones working hard this season.

Thompson said she is very impressed with the freshman.

She went on to say, "I'm really impressed with Kristin Payne.

She has come around and has really been playing well as of late."

The Lady Bucs will be playing in the state tournament at Northwest Shoals the first week in March.

They are starting to see some of the teams that will be in the tournament in regular season play.

However, Coach Thompson has made it apparent that she is not worried saying, "We have a good shot a winning the tournament."

Susan Mohun, Assistant Dean of Students, concurs that "Madonna Thompson will have the team ready for the tournament. As always we fully expect to win it all."

Fair named Associate Dean for Technical Services

Steve Fair, Shelton's Associate Dean for Technical Services

Following a 25 year relationship with Shelton State Community College, which has involved taking classes, teaching classes, overseeing the training for the Business and Industry Center and acting as interim Associate Dean, Steve Fair has been named Associate Dean for Technical Services.

As Associate Dean, Fair will be responsible for providing leadership to the Career Technical Division of the College, assuring the academic integrity and viability of all career technical programs, maintaining existing and developing new relationships with West Alabama business and industry, as well as other educational institutions.

Fair is a lifelong resident of West Alabama and began his career at Shelton State as a Machine Tool Technology (MTT) and Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) student in 1976. He later received an Associate of Applied Science in MTT and CNC from Shelton State, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Education from Athens State and a Master of Arts in management from the University of Alabama.

"Having worked ten years in industry, I understand the need for and importance of productivity and how it relates to skills. It all impacts the bottom line. Good, productive employees help maintain the health of the organization and keep the company competitive in the international marketplace," said Fair.

In 1988, Fair was asked to join the Shelton State Career technical faculty in MTT and CNC. Fair had planned on pursuing a degree in education, but enjoyed teaching so much that he instead earned a degree in vocational engineering. During his time as an instructor in Machine Tool Technology and Computerized Numerical Control, Fair was able to maintain and strengthen the job placement rate to 99 percent for his students through ongoing relationships with local industry.

Fair continued to benefit from his classroom experience and successful relationships in 2001 when he was named the Director of the Training for Business and Industry Center (TBI).

"In TBI, I had the opportunity to be the colleges' liaison to business and industry. I spent a lot of time with local companies to get a better understanding of what their needs were and what role Shelton State could play in servicing those needs," said Fair.

"Steve is a lifelong resident of Tuscaloosa, and we are very proud of his new appointment. He is a person of great character, has a tremendous work ethic, and will continue to represent the college well," said Rick Rogers, president of Shelton State.

Layton named Interim Dean of Students

Diane Layton, Shelton's acting Dean of Students

Diane Layton, Associate Dean of Students/Registrar at Shelton State has been named Interim Dean of Students at the College.

Layton began her career at Shelton State in 1978 as a counselor and became director of admissions and registrar in 1995.

In 2000, she was named associate dean of students.

She received her B.S. degree from the University of Alabama and her Masters degree in counseling from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

As interim dean of students, Layton will oversee all aspects of student life on the college's campuses including student activities, recruitment and counseling, admissions and records and athletics.

"I am thrilled and honored by these new duties," said Layton.

"I know there will be a lot of challenges but there is also a wonderful staff in place who will continue to provide outstanding service to our students."

Layton assumed her new duties following the departure of Humphrey Lee, who has been tapped as interim president of Northwest Shoals Community College in Muscle Shoals, Ala..

"I'm delighted that Diane has agreed to accept this responsibility at Shelton State," said Rick Rogers, president.

"Her 25 year commitment to this institution and its goals make her the perfect choice for this position," he added.

Tweedy

From Page 5

Like always, to win state. We lost to our rival last year. We want to beat Jeff State; it's us or them.

What was it like holding your own against Alabama hitters last fall?

(Shelton State lost 3-0.) It was so awesome…the year before the score was like 9-1.

They only got three hits to the outfield, and they were unearned. It gave me confidence to talk to the Alabama coach [Patrick Murphy] about playing there.

Name three things you want to do before you turn 30.

Graduate college, be established in a job and making decent money, and get married.

Describe the typical road game bus ride.

LaGina [Harris] and Alicia [Lavendar] are in the back, yelling and throwing stuff out the window. Most of the freshmen sit in the back and the middle, and sleep. [The sophomores] sit up front and study or talk.

Whom do you admire most, and why?

My pitching coach back home: Trinity Johnson. She played outfield for the Olympic team and left California and her family and boyfriend to train in Atlanta.

What are your strengths and weaknesses as a pitcher?

I like being a leader. When I get back to the dugout, I can let everyone know what the ump is calling…I like knowing what is going on.

During the fall, the freshman looked up to the sophomores. There's 22 of them and only five of us. I used to be quick in high school, but now I'm so slow.

Chess

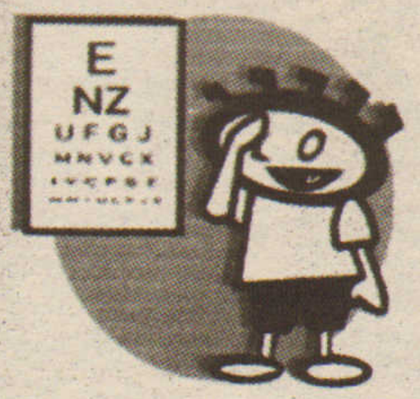
From Page 2

participate.

When I discussed with Mohun the healthy effects to the players' brains from involvement with chess, she said, "Wow, sounds like I need to join!"

If any Shelton students want to help their brain power and have some good, clean, intellectual fun, they should plan to meet on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. in the food court area.

A new meeting time may be established later.



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Lee
From Page 1

of Students in 1979.

While at Shelton, Lee served as president, vice president and treasurer\secretary of the Deans of Students Association.

Last year he was honored as Outstanding Student Services Officer of the year during the 2003 Chancellor's Awards, and he was awarded the Chancellor's Outstanding Administrator Award in 2000.

"I have worked with Humphrey Lee for 26 years, during which time I have found him to be a very student-oriented individual. His top priority has always been to evaluate the need of each individual and try to find the best solution. I think students and staff would agree...We already miss him," said Bonnie Sabbagh, Lee's secretary back at Shelton.

"Dean Lee and I have worked together for years, so he is not only a well respected co-worker, but a close friend of mine. I believe that his experience and his way of working with people will serve him well in his position as acting president of Northwest Shoals Community College. He has been a valuable asset to Shelton State for many years, and while we will certainly feel his absence, we are happy to be able to share him with Northwest Shoals during this interim period," said Rick Rogers, president of Shelton State Community College.

Lee seems to enjoy the challenge of being interim president at Northwest Shoals but remembers the students and staff at Shelton fondly. "I miss the students and working relationships at Shelton," said Lee.

Langston
From Page 1

Phillip Bobo, Former President of Shelton State Dr. Tom Umphrey, and State Senator Phil Poole.

In his introductory remarks, Senator Poole said, "Two things are important...integrity and loyalty...Bill epitomizes those virtues and he is someone I can always count on."

Langston has been executive director of the Fire College since 1988.

Langston began his fire service career with the City of Mobile Fire Department in 1964. He served 21 years with the department, retiring at the rank of captain in 1985.

During these years he served as a lobbyist for the Professional Fire Fighters Association; chairman and member of the Advisory Board, Alabama State Fire College.

In 1985, he accepted the post as executive director of the Alabama Fire Fighter's Personnel Standards and Education Commission.

As chief executive officer, it was his responsibility to oversee all testing and certification of fire service personnel for the state.

Langston served the commission until 1988 when, with the merger of the Alabama Fire College and the Personnel Standards Commission, he accepted the position of executive director of the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission/Shelton State Community College.

It is here that he provides leadership and direction for the formal training and certification for paid fire fighters in the state. Langston oversaw the merger of the Alabama Fire College and Shelton State Community College in 1981.

He has successfully increased the college's operating budget from $600,000 in 1988 to nearly $6 million in 2001.

Under his guidance and leadership, the Fire College acquired the Emergency Medical Services Program from the University of Alabama in 1994.

The EMS division of the college is the largest training provider in the state and produces more than 220,000 instructional hours per year at all levels.

He was directly responsible for funding acquisition and construction of the $10 million fire college campus.

Through his dedication, expertise, and guidance, the college has experienced extraordinary growth.

On March 11, 2003, the House and Senate of the Alabama Legislature passed a joint resolution commending Langston for his outstanding contributions to the Alabama State Fire College and designating the campus in his name.

Headquartered in Tuscaloosa, adjacent to Shelton State's campus, the college annually trains in excess of 22,000 students in areas that span the entire spectrum of emergency response, including hazardous materials, anti-terrorism, as well as traditional firefighting.

The campus serves as a state-of-the-art training facility and is continuously evolving and adding training simulators to enhance the educational opportunities for its student body.

It is one of the premier fire training academies in the United States. Encompassing more than 40 acres, the campus currently consists of the main administration building, EMS building, drill tower, and training simulators that include a burn building, arson building, forcible entry/ventilation building, concrete trench, hazardous materials rail yard, and structural collapse simulators.

A program of fire department training in Alabama has been in existence since 1935 under the administration of the Trade and Industrial Education Department. It was not until 1955, however, that Act No. 373, Regular Session, by the Alabama Legislature, created the State Fire College.

It took another eight years before the Alabama Legislature appropriated sufficient funds to build and equip a fire-training center.

In January, 1965, an agreement drawn and reached between the State Department of Education, the City of Tuscaloosa, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama allocated space for the training site on its Northington Campus property where University Mall, Home Depot and Target are now located.

The original burn tower can still be seen there.

In 1975, the Alabama Legislature passed the Alabama Fire Fighters Personnel Standards and Education Act, which required formal certification training for every fire fighter within the first twelve months after joining a paid fire department.

The office of this standards agency was originally established in Montgomery.

The State Board of Education placed the Alabama State Fire College with Shelton State Community College in April 1981.

Through Act 88-663, the Alabama Legislature merged the Alabama Fire Fighters Personnel Standards and Education Commission and the Alabama State Fire College, which was housed in Montgomery, and moved its operation to Tuscaloosa in May 1988.

The original Alabama Fire College facility consisted of the Fire College building and the drill field training center.

The Fire College facility contained a 200-seat auditorium, a classroom, a bay for fire apparatus, a conference room, and office space for the staff.

In March 1998 the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission moved to their current facilities adjacent to the campus of Shelton State Community College.

These facilities consist of three separate main buildings: the administrative offices, drill tower, and smoke building.

Because of rapid growth, a separate building was built to house the Emergency Medical Services Division in March 2001.

This facility, located on the campus of the Alabama Fire College, consists of classrooms, office space and a laboratory for students to complete their practical examinations.

As the dedication ceremony concluded Langston said, "I am humbled...I am honored...over what is happening, but I did not do this alone. It took everybody and the things we did and the fights we fought to get us here today."

He continued, "I thank everyone who has been involved because the honor is yours also. If it weren't for your effort we wouldn't be here today."

Serenading theatre legend Paul Looney during his December retirement reception at Shelton are some of his old theatre cronies. Looney's more-than-20-year stellar career included formation of Theatre Tuscaloosa and the building of the Bean-Brown Theatre.

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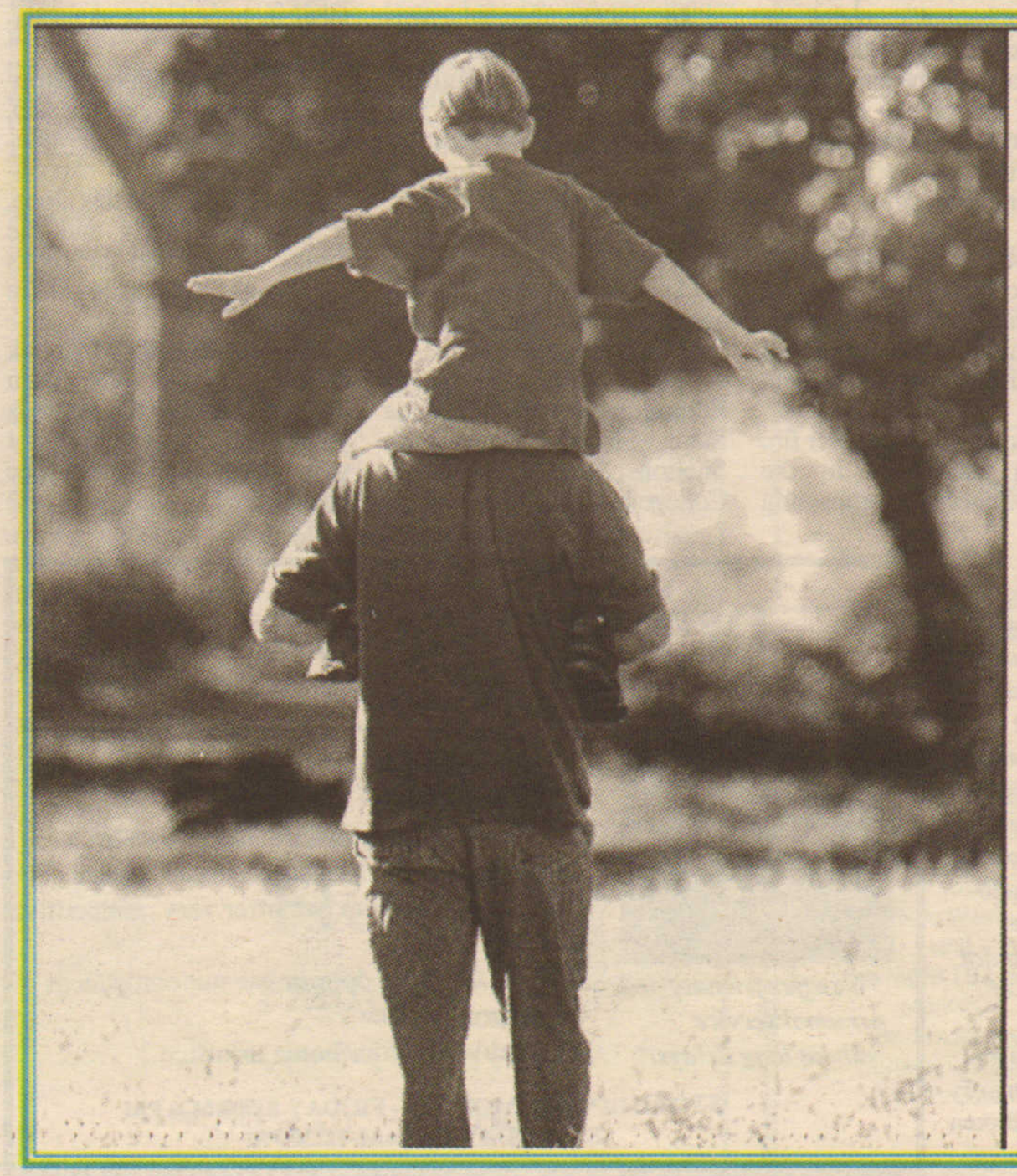

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